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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/851,782	05/09/2001	Tsuyoshi Ichibakase	5077-000037	3290

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EXAMINER

BERCK, KENNETH A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2879

DATE MAILED: 11/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/851,782

Applicant(s)

ICHIBAKASE ET AL.

Examiner

Ken A Berck

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4,6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 02276132.

132' discloses a method for cleaning a translucent tube for a discharge lamp having a luminous bulb portion, comprising the steps of introducing a cleaning fluid from one end of the tube, and allowing the cleaning fluid to flow while bringing the cleaning fluid in contact with at least an inner face of the luminous bulb portion of an inner face of the translucent tube, thereby removing impurities attached on the inner face of the luminous bulb portion.

Claims 1-2^{12, and 13} are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 391585. *AW 11/2/03*

585' discloses a method for cleaning a translucent tube for a discharge lamp having a luminous bulb portion, comprising the steps of introducing a cleaning fluid from one end of the tube, and allowing the cleaning fluid to flow while bringing the cleaning fluid in contact with at least an inner face of the luminous bulb portion of an inner face of the translucent tube, thereby removing impurities attached on the inner face of the luminous bulb portion.

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Regarding claim 2, 585' discloses the cleaning fluid is allowed to flow while being in contact with an outer face of the tube removing impurities attached on the outer face.

Regarding claim 12, 585' discloses the cleaning fluid is either one of gas, liquid, or fine particle powder and the step of removing impurities attached on the inner face of the luminous bulb portion is performed by discharging the cleaning fluid introduced from one end of the tube for a discharge lamp to the other end of the tube.

Regarding claim 13, 585' discloses the cleaning fluid is an inert gas.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 391585 in view of Vetter et al. (US 5069235).

Regarding claim 3, 585' discloses all of the above claim limitations but fail to clearly point out elevating a liquid surface of the cleaning liquid above an upper portion and lowering the liquid surface of the cleaning liquid below the lower portion.

Vetter discloses (column 2, lines 5-31) elevating a liquid surface of the cleaning liquid above an upper portion and lowering the liquid surface of the cleaning liquid below the lower portion in order to remove light weight contaminates from the surface of the container and remove heavy contaminates from the bottom of the container.

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Hence it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of 585' with the elevating a liquid surface of the cleaning liquid above an upper portion and lowering the liquid surface of the cleaning liquid below the lower portion in order to remove light weight contaminants from the surface of the container and remove heavy contaminants from the bottom of the container, as taught by Vetter.

Regarding claim 4, 585' discloses all of the above claim limitations but fail to clearly point out repeating the raising and lowering of the fluid.

Vetter discloses (column 2, lines 5-31) repeating the step of elevating a liquid surface of the cleaning liquid above an upper portion and lowering the liquid surface of the cleaning liquid below the lower portion in order to remove light weight contaminants from the surface of the container and remove heavy contaminants from the bottom of the container.

Hence it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of 585' with the repeated step of elevating a liquid surface of the cleaning liquid above an upper portion and lowering the liquid surface of the cleaning liquid below the lower portion in order to remove light weight contaminants from the surface of the container and remove heavy contaminants from the bottom of the container, as taught by Vetter.

Regarding claims 5-6, 585' discloses all of the above claim limitations but fail to clearly point out elevating a liquid surface of the cleaning liquid above an upper portion and lowering the liquid surface of the cleaning liquid below the lower portion.

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Vetter discloses (column 2, lines 5-31) elevating a liquid surface of the cleaning liquid above an upper portion and lowering the liquid surface of the cleaning liquid below the lower portion in order to remove light weight contaminants from the surface of the container and remove heavy contaminants from the bottom of the container.

Hence it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of 585' with the elevating a liquid surface of the cleaning liquid above an upper portion and lowering the liquid surface of the cleaning liquid below the lower portion in order to remove light weight contaminants from the surface of the container and remove heavy contaminants from the bottom of the container, as taught by Vetter.

Regarding claim 7, 585' discloses all of the above claim limitations but fail to clearly point out discharging the cleaning liquid from the container.

Vetter discloses (column 2, lines 5-31) discharging the cleaning liquid from the container in order to remove heavy contaminants from the bottom of the container.

Hence it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of 585' with the discharging the cleaning liquid from the container in order to remove heavy contaminants from the bottom of the container, as taught by Vetter.

Regarding claim 8, 585' discloses all of the above claim limitations but fail to clearly point out an ending point of cleaning is determined by monitoring a concentration of the impurities contained in the cleaning liquid.

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Vetter discloses (abstract) an ending point of cleaning is determined by monitoring a concentration of the impurities contained in the cleaning liquid in order to stop the process at the appropriate time.

Hence it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of 585' with the ending point of cleaning is determined by monitoring a concentration of the impurities contained in the cleaning liquid, as taught by Vetter.

Regarding claim 9, 585' discloses all of the above claim limitations but fail to clearly point out using a holding tool for holding a plurality of devices vertical.

Vetter discloses (fig 2) using a holding tool for holding a plurality of devices vertical in order to clean multiple devices at once.

Hence it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of 585' with the holding tool for holding a plurality of devices vertical in order to clean multiple devices at once, as taught by Vetter.

Regarding claim 10, 585' discloses using pure water.

Regarding claim 11, 585' discloses a first step of introducing a first cleaning liquid and a second step of introducing a second cleaning liquid other than the first cleaning liquid.

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Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ken A Berck whose telephone number is (703)305-7984. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimesh Patel can be reached on (703)305-4794. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0956.

kab



Joseph Williams
Joseph Williams